

PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

December 29, 2003

03-012

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This newsletter provides information on the PharmaCare program for British Columbia's community pharmacists. Please circulate among dispensing staff.

PharmaCare on the Web:

www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/pharmc

Internal Improvements to PharmaCare Special Authority (SA) Procedures

PharmaCare recently implemented a new set of drug categories, called "super categories." The creation of these categories allows PharmaCare to grant Special Authorities (SAs) to groups of similar medications, or different dosages of the same medication, without entering individual DINs on PharmaNet. Each drug in a super category has the same coverage criteria.

Medications that may be included in super categories are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ H2 Blockers | ▪ Low Molecular Weight Heparin |
| ▪ Nitrates | ▪ Long-Acting Beta2 Agonists |
| ▪ NSAIDs | ▪ Long-Acting Beta2 Agonist combinations |
| ▪ ACE Inhibitors | ▪ Nebulizers |
| ▪ Calcium Channel Blockers | ▪ Methotrexate injectable |
| ▪ Angiotensin Receptor Blockers | ▪ Anti-Parkinson medications |
| ▪ Second-line Proton Pump Inhibitors | |

A SA Request submitted for a medication that is part of a super category will state that the drug has been approved.

Physicians or pharmacists may elect to contact the PharmaNet HelpDesk for information on whether a specific DIN has already been approved for the patient under a previous SA. If the HelpDesk confirms that SA approval for that DIN is already in place, a separate SA request is not required.

Fair PharmaCare Administrative Review Process

Posted with this newsletter is an information sheet on the Fair PharmaCare Administrative Review process. The sheet may be posted, printed, or copied for distribution to customers.

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Termination of PharmaCare Participation Agreement with Oakridge Pharmacy

The Government of British Columbia has terminated the PharmaCare Participation Agreement with Oakridge Pharmacy effective December 8, 2003. As of that date, Oakridge Pharmacy will no longer be entitled to participate in the British Columbia PharmaCare Program. This is an administrative decision by the PharmaCare program, based on the history of its relationship with Oakridge Pharmacy.

Consequently, PharmaCare will not provide direct payment to Oakridge Pharmacy, or reimburse individuals for medications dispensed at Oakridge Pharmacy after December 8, 2003. For PHNs registered for the Fair PharmaCare Plan, benefit medications paid for at this pharmacy will not be eligible for or contribute towards their Fair PharmaCare deductible after December 8, 2003.

Special Services Fees

The number of special services fees paid for by PharmaCare over the past months are:

DATE	NO. OF FEES
Mar 2003	2,901
Apr 2003	3,145
May 2003	2,941
Jun 2003	3,183
Jul 2003	3,381

DATE	NO. OF FEES
Aug 2003	3,086
Sept 2003	3,729
Oct 2003	3,941
Nov 2003	3,598

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Non Benefits

PharmaCare's Drug Benefit Committee recently completed the review of the following products and recommended that these products not be added as benefits under the British Columbia PharmaCare Program.

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME
2242725	NVR	Zometa [®] (zoledronic acid) 4mg injection
2024179	FEI	Octostim [®] (desmopressin acetate) 15mcg/ml injection
2246569	SEV	Biprel [®] (perindopril/ indapamide) 4/1.25mg tablet
2247085	GSK	Avandamet [®] (rosiglitazone maleate/ metformin hydrochloride) 1/500mg tablet
2247086	GSK	Avandamet [®] (rosiglitazone maleate/ metformin hydrochloride) 2/500mg tablet
2247087	GSK	Avandamet [®] (rosiglitazone maleate/ metformin hydrochloride) 4/500mg tablet
		Celebrex [®] (celecoxib) for Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)

LCA Updates

New Products Categorized to Low Cost Alternative Program (LCA) and/or Reference Drug Program (RDP)

The following new products under the Low Cost Alternative Program (LCA) / Reference Drug Program (RDP) have been included as eligible PharmaCare benefits on Plans B, C, F, & I:

DIN	MAN	DRUG NAME	FULL/ PARTIAL	LCA/RDP Price	Short Term	Long Term	Plan G Eligible	Palliative Care Eligible
2237369		Accuretic [®] 20/25mg (quinapril hydrochloride/ hydrochlorothiazide)	Full		N	Y	N	Y

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Drugs under Review

The following drug submissions are currently under review by PharmaCare's Drug Benefit Committee:

alfuzosin (XATRAL [®] 10mg tabs), resubmission	methlyphenidate hydrochloride (CONCERTA [®] tabs)
anakinra (KINERET [®] 150mg/ml Injection)	olanzapine (ZYPREXA [®] tabs), new indication
botulinum toxin (BOTOX [®] Injection), new indication	oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL [®] 150mg, 300mg, 600mg tabs)
brimonide tartrate (Alphagan 0.15% ophthalmic solution)	peginterferon alfa-2a (PEGASYS [®] 180mcg/0.5ml pre-filled syringes and 180mcg/1ml single use vials)
ciprofloxacin (CIPRO XL [®] 500mg modified release tabs)	perindopril erbumine (COVERSYL [®] 8mg tabs)
clopidogrel (PLAVIX [®] 75mg tabs), new indication	perindopril erbumine/indapamide (PRETERAX [®] 2mg/0.625mg tabs)
desmopressin (DDAVP [®] tabs), resubmission	pimecrolimus (ELIDEL [®] 1% cream)
donepezil (ARICEPT [®] 5mg and 10mg tabs), resubmission new data	pioglitazone (Actos [®] 15mg, 30mg and 45mg tabs), resubmission
etanercept (ENBREL [®] injection), new indication	risedronate sodium (ACTONEL [®] 5mg tabs), resubmission
ezetimibe (EZETROL [®] 10mg tabs)	risperidone (RISPERDAL M-TAB [®] 0.5mg, 1mg and 2mg orally disintegrating tabs)
fondaparinux sodium (ARIXTRA [®] 2.5mg injection), resubmission	Rivastigmine (EXELON [®] caps), resubmission
galantamine (REMINYL [®] 4mg, 8mg and 12mg tabs), resubmission	rofecoxib (VIOXX [®] 25mg tabs), new indication
ganciclovir (CYTOVENE [®] 500mg caps)	rosuvastatin calcium (CRESTOR [®] 10mg, 20mg, 40mg tabs)
glimepiride (AMARYL [®] 1mg, 2mg and 4mg tabs)	rosiglitazone (AVANDIA [®] tabs), resubmission
interferon beta-1a (AVONEX [®] 30mcg once a week IM injectable), new indication	tacrolimus (PROTOPIC [®] 0.03% and 0.1% ointment), resubmission
irbesartan (AVAPRO [®] tabs), new indication	telithromycin (KETEK [®] 400mg tabs)
levetiracetam (KEPPRA [®] 250mg, 500mg and 750mg tabs)	testosterone (ANDRODERM [®] 24.3mg transdermal deliver system)
losartan (COZAAR [®] tabs), new indication	tiotropium bromide (SPIRIVA [®] 18 mcg caps)
methadone hydrochloride (METADOL [®] 1mg, 5mg, 10mg and 25mg tabs)	vitamin and mineral supplement (DIAPLEX [®])

